1-1-2003

MW 710 Religions of the Middle East

Terry C. Muck
ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Spring 2003

MW710 Religions of the Middle East

Meeting Time: Tuesday, 4:00
Instructor: Terry C. Muck
Phone: 859-858-2145 (o) 502-893-2868 (h)
E-Mail: terry_muck@asburyseminary.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday afternoon, 2:00 – 4:30; before and after class;
e-mail; special appointment.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this course, students study the origin, history, and basic tenets of the religions of the Middle East. Focus will be placed on the major world religions of Judaism and Islam, but in order to understand them in their context we will also study Zoroastrianism and the indigenous religions common to this geographical area. Special attention will be paid to the way the religious traditions of the Middle East—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—relate to one another (and to indigenous folk religions) in both their historical and modern contexts. Students learn basic religious study skills and will visit a Jewish temple or synagogue and a Muslim mosque.

II. COURSE GOALS
A. Students will articulate the core teachings of Middle Eastern religions, describing them in ways agreeable to representative adherents of those religious traditions;
B. Students will develop tools of analysis enabling them to research the history, beliefs, and practices of religious traditions;
C. Students will create missiological approaches to people of Middle Eastern religious backgrounds;
D. Students will experience Middle Eastern religions in their local, practiced form, developing skills of participant observation and empathetic learning.

II. TEXTBOOKS
A concise introduction to the history and teachings of Islam.
The Holy Koran, Yusif Ali, trans.
III. ASSIGNMENTS
   1. Class attendance (10 percent)
   2. Two visit reports (10 percent each)
   3. A mission strategy paper on either Judaism or Islam (20 percent)
   4. Two exams (25 percent each)

IV. CLASS SCHEDULE

Week #1: Methodological tools needed for the study of Middle Eastern religion

Week #2: Zoroastrianism

Week #3: Judaism

Week #4: The Christian “Heresy”

Week #5: Judaism and Middle Eastern Folk Religion

Week #6: Visit to Temple Adath Israel of Lexington

Week #7: Discussion and Exam #1

Week #8: Islam

Week #9: Jewish Proselytism

Week #10: Islamic Jihad or Dawah

Week #11: Islam and Folk Religion

Week #12: Christian Approaches to Jews and Muslism

Week #13: Visit to Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati

Week #14: Modern Judaism and Islam

Final (Second) Exam

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MW608, MW708, MS674  Introduction to World Religions

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                Office: MC314
If you want to make sure and get me, schedule a specific appointment before or after class.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
   In this course, students study the origin, history, and basic tenets of each of the major religious traditions of the world--Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Shinto, Sikhism, and Zoroastrianism. Students learn basic religious study skills, and engage in research projects in one or more of these religions.

II. TEXTBOOK